

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-4 are pending in the application. In response to the Office Action (Paper No. 2), Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims define patentable subject matter. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1-4 to improve clarity.

I. Preliminary Matters

The Examiner did not acknowledge receipt of the priority document and the claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119.¹ Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner acknowledge in the next action the claim for foreign priority and receipt of the priority document.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate in the next action acceptance of the formal drawings submitted with the present application on December 8, 2000.

¹ A certified copy of the foreign priority document was filed along with the present application on December 8, 2000. Further, the application transmittal letter and declaration filed on December 8, 2000 indicated a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119.

II. Rejection of Claims 1-4

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Rangan (U.S. Patent No. 6,412,073). Applicants respectfully submits that the claimed invention would not have been anticipated by or rendered obvious in view of Rangan.

Independent claim 1 recites, in part, “a retrieval server, and a retrieval database communicably linked to said retrieval server, wherein said retrieval server of said information retrieval site is configured to retrieve from a plurality of information providing sites data representing details of services respectively provided by said information providing sites, [and] store the data retrieved from said information providing sites in said retrieval database.”

With regards to independent claim 1, the Examiner asserts that Rangan discloses the claimed retrieval database via a “mass storage repository 29”. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner’s position.

Rangan discloses storing personalized Portal WEB pages, which include usernames, passwords and URLs, into the mass storage repository 29 (col. 4, lines 50-52). However, the information stored in the mass storage repository 27 is information which is used when accessing each web site or information indicating a location where each web site is located. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the information stored in the mass storage repository 29 of Rangan is not “data representing details of services respectively provided by a plurality of information providing sites therefrom”, as claimed. Rather, in Rangan, the user needs to access each web site to retrieve information provided by the web site.

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Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Rangan fails to disclose the claimed retrieval server and/or the retrieval database that stores the data representing details of services respectively provided by a plurality of information providing sites therefrom, which is retrieved by the retrieval server.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1, as well as dependent claims 2-4, should be allowable because the cited reference does not teach or suggest all of the features of the claim.

III. Conclusion

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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